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A college man in khaki. Letters of an American in the British artillery. By Wainwright Merrill. Edited with an introduction by Charles M. Stearns. (New York: George H. Doran company, [1918]. 234 p. \$1.50 net)

We have been surfeited with war books, yet Wainwright Merrill's *A college man in khaki* comes as a refreshing contribution to the ever-growing collection. It is unique in scope and point of view. Delightfully subjective, it is yet free from the introspective undercurrent so evident in many books of this class.

Strictly speaking, the story of *A college man in khaki* is only a prelude to the war, leading up to the big theme, and then pausing before the great climax, pausing to end in complete silence. When in 1917 England sent out a call for volunteers, Wainwright Merrill enlisted in the Canadian army. It was with the joy of a man who is united after a long absence with his mother country that Wainwright Merrill greeted England for the first time. During his spare moments, he explored England in the spirit of a child investigating the attic of his ancestral home—each new object steeped in tradition. Her literature, her tradition and history, he knew and loved. In writing to his friends he lingered over these points with the delight of a connoisseur. So in one of his letters he playfully describes Christ's Hospital: "You have heard of Charles Lamb and S. T. Coleridge, mayhap, what time you pursued the Anglic muse? Well yesterday I saw them in effigy; saw their quaint cloaks, stocks and shoes, but on bright young British commoners whom the Army has not greatly bothered yet; . . . I remember Lamb's essay on Christ's Hospital in the chronicles of the gentle Elia: I often pictured to myself what life must have been like in the dear old city, hard by Newgate, and that ancient monolith, now so changed, the Old Bailey."

Life was to Merrill a great adventure. War was to him a "filthy old show," but his unfailing optimism foresaw "the noble end which we seek out of the ruck and jetsam of death and broken men and lasting sorrow."

Passing lightly over the hardships, lingering long over the joys of free hours well spent, full of an inborn optimism, such is Wainwright Merrill, *A college man in khaki*.

ANITA LIBMAN

War and the coming peace. The moral issue. By Morris Jastrow, Jr., Ph.D., LL.D., University of Pennsylvania. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott company, 1918. 144 p. \$1.00 net)

It is decidedly refreshing to find among the multitude of books on the war one in which the author emphasizes the spiritual factors of the

great struggle. Nearly every other aspect of the war has been dealt with in considerable detail. The author of this little work lays especial stress on the moral aspect of the war and in doing so he goes far to explain the remarkable extent to which the war has enlisted great and small nations in one common cause. The desire for national trade or territorial growth, economic competition, ancient racial hatreds — these all play some part in the world struggle but together or singly they do not sufficiently explain the mustering of forces by land and sea against the German menace.

The author divides his subject into two parts, war as a moral issue and the problem of a world peace. There is an obvious advantage in discussing the problems of peace after having shown the moral grounds for entering war. Especially to be commended is the careful analysis of the transformation of the idealistic, patriotic, and progressive German of 1814 into the willing tool of an autocratic and imperial-minded master a century later. From the standpoint of a rational philosophy we can thus see why a just and abiding peace can never be secured upon any other foundation than that of universal brotherhood. Peace as well as war is clearly demonstrated to be essentially a moral issue involving the well-being of all nations for an indefinite period of time.